(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) जी, हां

(ख) और (ग) सरकार ने 147.78 अमरीकी डालर प्रति मीटरी टन (जहाज तक निष्प्रभार) के औसत मूल्य पर 10.05 लाख मीटरी टन गेहूं का आयात करने के लिए कनाडियन व्हीट बोर्ड के साथ एक ठेके पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं अनुमान है कि आयातित गेहूं की उतरान लागत 5260.00 रु. प्रति मीटरी टन बैठेगी।

Import of Rice

1676. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import rice from Thailand and Vietnam to meet public demand in lieu of export to Basmati Rice; and

(b) if so, the quality and quantity of rice to be imported and the foreign exchange to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) There is no proposal to import rice from Thailand and Vietnam in lieu of export of Basmati Rice.

(b) Does not arise.

Stock of foodgrants of P.D.S.

1677. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of sharp fall in procurement of foodgrains this year the stocks of foodgrains for the public distribution system (PDS) have depleted putting public distribution system under strain;

(b) if so, what is the net effect of less procurement of foodgrains on the public distribution system;

(c) whether Government are aware that the strain on Public Distribution system is likely to push upward the open market prices of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take to contain price of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) On account of lower procurement of both rice and wheat during 1991-92 foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool have come down compared to the position obtaining a year earlier. However, there has been no adverse effect on the public distribution system, releases for which are being made on the normal pattern.

(c) and (d) Open market prices of foodgrains are dependent on the relative position of overall supply and demand of foodgrains in the market. On account of lower procurement this year of wheat and rice, the holding of these foodgrains in the open market is comparatively larger, which should have a sobering effect on the open market prices.

Import of Wheat

1678. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import one million tonne of wheat from Canada;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) the quantum of wheat exported to other countries during the last six monthis; and

(d) the reasons for importing the wheat when Government are exporting it on the other hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government have signed a contract with the Canadian Wheat Board in June, 1992 for import of 10.05 lakh tonnes of wheat. Some balancing import of wheat became unavoidable due to factors like fall in production of foodgrains especially coarse-grains during 1991-92 as compared to the production during 1990-91 with consequent imbalance in demand-supply lower level of procurement of wheat during 1991-92 and 1992-93 marketing seasons and the consequent need for building up stocks in the Central Pool for maintaining supplies in Public Distribution System (PDS) and achieving food security.

(c) During January to June, 1992 the State Trading Corporation exported 1.25 lakh tonnes of wheat.

(d) Since January, 1992 export of wheat has been restricted to the firm contractual obligations entered into earlier by STC and MMTC.

Establishment of new sugar factories in Gujarat

1679. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Gujarat State for change of the location for establishment of a new sugar factory;

(b) if so, at which stage the proposal is laying;

(c) by when the matter is likely to be finalised;

(d) how many proposals have been received from Gujarat State for establishment of new sugar factories;

(e) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter; and

(f) by when the proposals are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 3 proposals have been received for change of location of new sugar factories in the State of Gujarat which are pending consideration. Certain information has been called for from the State Government in respect of 2 proposals on the receipt of which, these cases would be processed further. As regards the 3rd proposal, it is under consideration.

(d) to (f) As on 30-6-1992, 12 applications have been received by the Ministry of Food through the Department of Industrial Development for grant of Letters of Intent for the establishment of new sugar factories in the State of Gujarat. In view of the large pendency of unimplemented Letters of Intent/Licences already issued, proposals for new sugar factories have not yet been taken up for consideration.

Freeze on grants to central universities

1680. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 46 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th July, 1992 and state:

(a) the reasons for freezing the grants or resorting to cut of grants to Central Universities alongwith the reasons for withdrawing the same;

(b) what are the details of the ways and means to meet this additional burden; and

(c) the plan worked out by Government for the loan based self financed education at higher level?